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Ruthin Rural District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

Year Ended 31st December, 1947

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health

(Dr. T. O. JONES)

Printed at the Free Press Office, Vale Street, Denbigh.

Ruthin Rural District Council.

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RUTHIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Ruthin Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the Sanitary condition of the District, with various statistics, for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

Area (in acres)	101,032
Estimated Population	9,991
Rateable Value	£42,136
Sum represented by penny rate	£175

LIVE BIRTHS

The total number of births was 156, being 80 males and 76 females, 9 males and 5 females being illegitimate. Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population being 15.6 as compared with 16.1 for the previous year and 20.5 for England and Wales for the present year.

STILL BIRTHS

The total number of still births was 3, being 2 males and 1 female. Rate per 1,000 total births equals 19 and 0.30 per thousand population, as compared with the rate of 18 and 0.30 respectively for the previous year, and 0.50 for England and Wales for the present year.

DEATHS

Sixty-five males and 53 females—total 118, equal to a death rate per 1,000 of estimated population of 11.8, as compared with 13.2 for the previous year and 12.0 for England and Wales for the present year.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	12
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	12
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE

No deaths were attributed to any of the Zymotic diseases.

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	0
Cancer	19
Cerebral Haemorrhage	24
Heart Diseases	35
Bronchitis	2
Pneumonia	2
Nephritis	7
Influenza	0
Congenital Debility Premature Birth	1
Diabetes	0
Appendicitis	1
Road Traffic Accidents	3
Other Accidents	1
Other defined Diseases	17

RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—

Live Births	20.5
Still Births	0.5

Deaths:—

All Causes	12.00
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02
Diphtheria	0.01
Influenza	0.09
Smallpox	0.00
Measles	0.01

Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—

Deaths under 1 year of age	41
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	5.8

CANCER

Nineteen persons died from Cancer within the year, being 9 males and 10 females, which is equivalent to 1.9 per 1,000 of the population, and at the rate of 161 per 1,000 deaths, as compared with 1.5 and 114 respectively for the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS

(New Cases and Mortality during 1947).

Age Periods.	New Cases. Respiratory.		New Cases. Non-Respiratory.			Deaths. Respiratory.		Deaths. Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
0—1	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
1—5	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
5—10	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
10—15	1	0	0	1	...	0	0	0	0
15—20	2	0	1	0	...	0	0	0	0
20—25	2	3	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
25—35	0	1	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
35—45	3	1	1	1	...	1	1	0	0
45—55	0	0	0	0	...	1	0	0	0
55—65	1	0	0	0	...	0	1	0	0
65 & upwards	2	1	0	0	...	1	1	0	0
	11	6	2	2	...	3	3	0	0

The number of cases notified during the year was 21, as compared with 11 for the previous year.

Tuberculosis accounted for 6 deaths, 3 males and 3 females respiratory. The total number of deaths from this disease during the year was equivalent to 50 per 1,000 deaths registered.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The undermentioned cases were notified during the year:—

Scarlet Fever	19
Erysipelas	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	5
Opthalmia Neonatorium	1
Measles	27
Whooping Cough	35

Scarlet Fever.

Fifteen of the Scarlet Fever cases occurred at a large Children's School. The outbreak was of an exceptionally mild character. Two cases were in a Prisoner-of-War Camp, and the other two cases were in the Llanarmon locality.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

Five cases of the above disease occurred within the District during the year. Detailed report of each case was forwarded to the Welsh Board of Health at time of notification.

The first case was in August — a young child of 2½ years — in Llandegla. This was an exceptionally mild case, one leg only being slightly affected. There was no history of any acute illness previously.

Three cases were notified during September, one being a girl of 14, in a farm house in Llanelidan; the second being a farmer's wife, aged 28, in Gyffylliog; and the third was in Llanfair district, she was a married lady aged 41 from Liverpool, who had resided in the district for about five weeks previous to the illness.

The fifth case was a girl of 12 years of age who came from Manchester on a visit to Bontuchel. She was found to be suffering from the disease on her arrival.

These last four cases were of a severe type, and received Hospital Treatment. All eventually recovered.

All the cases were miles apart from each other, and there was no evidence that any had been in contact with other cases.

Whooping Cough.

An epidemic of this disease started in the previous year through one side of the District, particularly Llanfair, Derwen and Clocaenog areas, and continued during the early part of the year. A few other cases occurred in other localities during the remainder of the year.

Measles.

Twenty-seven cases of this disease were notified. These occurred in various parts of the district, and were not confined to any one locality.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS

It will be noticed on the report that not a single case of Diphtheria was notified during the year, which definitely proves the high efficiency of Immunisation against the disease, and it does also emphasise the great importance of continuing this prophylaxis without relaxation, and consequently the responsibility on the part of parents and all in charge of children to see that they are all immunised.

The estimated child population in the district to mid-year 1947 is:--

Children under 5 years	720
Children between 5 and 15 years	1,285
Total	2,005

Approximately 99.8 per cent of this total have been immunised During the year, the number immunised were:—

Children under 5 years	147
Children between 5 and 15 years	14

Repeat doses:—

Children under 5 years	18
Children between 5 and 15 years	534

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

There have been no changes during the year in the Services provided under the following headings:—

Public Health Officers.
Laboratory Facilities.
Ambulance Facilities.
Clinic and Treatment Centres
Hospitals.
Tuberculosis.
Venereal Diseases.
Maternity and Nursing.
Legislation in Force.
Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service in Conway.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supply.

Schemes of water supply involving improvements in filtration, chlorination and storage, together with the laying of many miles of new water mains, are being formulated. These schemes are intended to give piped supplies to areas in the District which are now without such public supplies, and are also for the purpose of improving supplies to certain areas now inadequately served. Piped supplies are proposed for Waen and Geinas (Aberwheeler), Nantglyn, Gyffylliog village and farm areas to the west of the village; Farm areas in the Llanrhaiadr and Llanynys Parishes; Bontuchel village (Llanfwrog and Llanynys); Farm areas in Derwen and Clocaenog Parishes; Graigfechan and Pentrecelyn, and farm areas in the Llanfair D.C. Parish, and areas between Llanarmon and Llandegla villages. Improvements to existing plant and piped supplies are proposed for Bryneglwys Parish; the Nant-y-Ne source (Llangynhafal); the Prion supply at Meifod (Llanrhaiadr), and the Cricor supply (Llanfair D.C.). Existing sources of supply which are of poor quality or which fail in dry seasons will be abandoned in favour of reliable sources. Most of these schemes have now been submitted to the County Council and to the Welsh Board of Health for Approval, and revision of certain schemes has been undertaken. It is anticipated that the first of these schemes will be started next year.

During the year, 22 additional properties—dwelling houses and farms—were connected to the Council's mains, as well as 10 cattle troughs in fields.

Approximately 50% of the houses throughout the Rural District have a piped water supply; when the schemes already mentioned are in operation this percentage will be greatly increased.

Rivers and Streams.

Further revisions of the scheme for the abatement of stream pollution to which I referred in my last report have been necessary, and final details will be submitted to the Welsh Board of Health next year. When the work is completed, no further complaints should arise.

Drains and Sewerage.

Eleven cases of defective drainage were dealt with, and in four cases new drains were laid.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year, only three new water closets were provided for existing premises. The great difficulty in obtaining materials and skilled labour to carry out the work militated against greater improvements.

Scavenging.

The Council's Scheme for the removal of refuse continues to function well, but the provision of a new lorry is essential. All complaints were investigated and promptly dealt with.

Following inspections carried out during the year:—

37 nuisances existed.
37 were remedied.

Sewerage Disposal.

Considerable progress was made in the preparation of modern schemes of Sewerage Disposal for nearly all the villages in the District. A number of these schemes have now been submitted to the Welsh Board of Health for approval, and it is anticipated that the first of these schemes will be started next year.

Classification of Visits.

Visits in respect of nuisance abatement	205
Visits in respect of drainage work	64
Visits in respect of water supplies	42
Visits to Bakehouses	18
Visits to Slaughterhouses (apart from meat inspection)	
Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	357
Visits for Food Inspection	47
Visits to investigate Infectious Diseases (including T.B.)	32
Re-visits and Disinfection	28
Visits to Factories and Workshops	42

Classification of Defects Found.

Overcrowding and Dirty Houses	11
Defective Structures	14
W.C. Fittings	21
Stopped Drains	49
Defective Drainage	11
Defective Roofs and Spouting	33
Defective Floors	12
Defective Water Supplies	5
Dampness	34
Number of premises disinfected	24

Housing.

Number erected during the year	15
Reconstructed	2

Fifteen new houses were erected during the year, ten of these being built by the Council and five by private enterprise. Considerable progress was also made on other sites, and it is to be hoped that next year will see a far larger number of houses completed. There is still a serious shortage of houses of the working class description in several localities.

Inspection of Dwellings during the Year.

Total number inspected	118
Total number fit (included in sub-head above)	48
Total number unfit (included in sub-head above)	39
Total number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	31

Remedy of Defects.

Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	15

Milk and Dairies Order.

Number of farms 856, of which 97 are T.Tested and 65 Accredited, as compared with the numbers 791, 41 and 65 for the previous year.

There is one Authority in the District authorised to operate Milk Heat Treatment Plants. The Creamery treat from 8,000 to 22,000 gallons per day during peak periods. Regular samples were taken for Phosphatase & Methylene Blue Tests, and on no occasion was the milk found to be below standard.

Food.

The following food was condemned during the year, being unfit for human consumption:—

481 Tins of Fruit Cocktail.
36 lbs. 5 ozs. of Bacon.
5 Stone of Fish.
4 lbs. of Butter.
1 doz. Meat Pies.
3 lbs. of Sausage.
2 Tins of Peas.
4 Tins of Beans.
17 Tins of Evaporated Milk.
3 Tins of Nestles Milk.
5 Tins of Fish.
12 Tins of Soup.
4 Tins of Carrots.
4 Tins of Meat.
1 Tin of Peeled Tomatoes.
1 Tin of Marmalade.
1 Tin of Grapefruit.

Factory and Workshops Act.

Garages	5
Flour Mills	6
Electric Light Works	3
Saw Mills	6
Bakehouses	6
Building Trades	5
Butter Factory	1
Others	8
	40

The above were periodically inspected.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BY-LAWS OR REGULATIONS

There were no offensive trades or hop-pickers in the District.

SCHOOLS

All Elementary Schools within the District were inspected during the year.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1928

There were no premises within the District on which Rag Flock is manufactured, used or sold.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Particulars of samples of food and drugs taken under the above Act, in the Ruthin Rural District, during the year ended the 31st December, 1947.

Article.	No. taken.	Genuine.	Not Genuine, or Sub-Standard.
Milk	9	6	3
Butter	2	2	
Cheese	1	1	
Meat Paste	1	1	
Jam	1	1	
Self-Raising Flour	1	1	
Totals	15	12	3

Three samples of milk obtained from the same source were adulterated with added water, and the vendor was prosecuted and convicted. All other samples were genuine.

D. Wynne Griffith,

Chief Inspector.

16 Woodland Road East,
Colwyn Bay.

GENERAL

I desire to express my appreciation of the very capable and efficient services rendered by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Rees, and the Water Engineer, Mr. Birtwell.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. O. JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.